in luggage charges as compared to the parcel rates with effect from January 16, 1992; and

(b) if so, whether the lower class passengers are allowed less luggage free of charges; if so, the details in this regard and the reasons for such discrimination in particular and the hike in general ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) The luggage rates have been fixed at 30% higher than the General Parcel rates w.e.f. 16-1-1992 as against 10% earlier.

(b) There is no reduction in the free allowance on luggage because of the hike in luggage rate. The existing free allowance on luggage is as follows :

II Class	35 Kgs.
A.C. Chair Car . . .	40 kgs.
A.C. Sleeper/I Class . .	50 kgs.
A.C. I Class . . .	70 kgs.

Passengers paying fare for higher class of accommodation are given more free allowance than those of lower class.

The increase in luggage rate is uniformly applicable.

Konkan Railway Project

358. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Konkan Railway project is facing problems and is likely to be delayed ; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

New train from Shirdi to Bombay

359. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to start a new train called 'Sai Express' from Shirdi to Bombay ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Conversion of Metre Gauge

360. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government propose to convert all matre-gague lines into broad-gauge; and

(b) What are the datails of proposals for conversion of metre-gauge lines in Andhra Pradesh during next three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) The Government propose to selectively convert M.G. lines to B.G. to move towards a Uni-gauge system.

(b) The lines selected for conversion in Andhra-Pradesh during the VIII Plan include Guntur-Guntakal-Kalluru ; Dronachalam-Secunderabad-Bolaram ; Katpadi-Pakala-Tirupati; Rayadurg-Obulapuram of Rayadurg Bellary section.

Cancellation of Express Trains in South Central Railways

361. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that the South Central Railway has cancelled some of the express trains recently to save diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) What is its impact on the passenger traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c) 5 pairs of trains which serve South Central Railway have been temporarily cancelled and will be restored during April, 1992 . In view of alternative connecting services being available and this being a lean period , there has not been much impact on passenger traffic.